Reddie & Grose

16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL

Chartered Patent Agents
European Patent Attorneys
Trade Mark Agents

Telephone 071-242 0901
Fax 071-242 3290
Fax 071-242 0286
Telex 25445
DX 280

John H. Bass B.Sc.
P. Antony Smith M.A.
F.A.B. Valentine M.A.
Richard C. Abnett M.A.
Paul A. Brereton M.A.
Keith E. Geering B.A.
Nicholas S. Marlow B.Sc.
Linda J. Harland B.Sc.
J.M. Davies D.Phil
P.A.D. Lloyd B.Sc.

D.S. Jackson B.Sc.
J.J. Day B.Sc.

Consultant
David A. Pears M.A.

Beverly A. Monroe
Philip Morris Management Corp.
Law Department, Patent Section
P.O. Box 26583
Richmond, Virginia 23261-6583
USA

25th November 1991

JHB/MT

RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP
LAW DEPT. PATENT SECTION

DEC - 4 1991

NOTED

Dear Beverly

PM 1455 EPO and Japan
Reflection Sleeve for Flavour Generating Article
Our File 32772

Thank you for your letter of 13 November enclosing an office action, reference and amendment.

I have briefly reviewed these and can understand the reasoning behind the amendments filed in the US application. All the claims in this case are directed to a reflector sleeve or to a method or blank for making it. Such claims to the sleeve in isolation are inevitably vulnerable to prior art directed to different purposes. It is particularly interesting to note that the prior art in this case is in the field of tobacco smoking, although having nothing to do with the particular problem faced by the present invention.

The amendment made in the US case is very appropriate and could usefully be adopted elsewhere. In the EPO, amendments of claims are not accepted until the search report has issued but I will make a note on my file to review the situation when the report is received. If you have any comment on this suggestion please let me know.

As for the Japanese application, I will inform our associate of the situation so that any desirable action in Japan can be taken in due course.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Bass

cc: Jeff Ingerman

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/lxgj0000